



Adventures above the rest.

Private Land Archery Hunting Information Packet | 2025

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Archery Season & Application Deadlines

*Season dates are subject to change due to [MFWP](#) release of 2025 Hunting Information in early March.

Archery Only Season Dates for Elk/Deer: September 6 - October 19

Application Deadline: April 1

Drawing: April 15

Archery Season Dates for Antelope: September 6 - October 10

Application Deadline: June 1

Drawing: Early August

900 Series Dates for Antelope: August 15 - November 9

Application Deadline: June 1

Drawing: Mid-June

Archery Season Dates for Black Bear: September 6 - September 14

License purchased over the counter



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Archery on Big Timber Ranches

The Big Timber Ranch hunts are located just minutes outside of Big Timber, MT on thousands of acres of rolling hills with flowing creeks. Elk and deer roam the countryside in healthy populations. All of the Big Timber ranches are hunted with a General License for elk and deer. All antelope hunts require a special permit. We take a limited number of hunters to provide the best hunting experience. Our ranch hunts are fully guided, spot and stalk hunts. We use 4x4 vehicles to access the ranches we hunt. Accommodations include a comfortable lodge in Big Timber with all meals provided.

Hunt Prices – Big Timber Ranches

ARCHERY ELK HUNT – BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$7500 per hunter 2x1

\$8500 per hunter 1x1

Hunt price includes lodging and meals at ABO Lodge in Big Timber.

ARCHERY ELK HUNT – BIG TIMBER “LIMITED” RANCHES

The Big Timber “Limited” Ranches were special permit ranches that became general license areas in 2022. Due to the limited hunting on these ranches in past years, we can now offer our hunters opportunity for trophy elk with a general license. We book only 2 hunters per week for these ranches.

\$8500 per hunter 2x1

\$9500 1x1

Hunt price includes lodging and meals at ABO Lodge in Big Timber.

ARCHERY ELK COMBO HUNT – BIG TIMBER RANCHES

During the hunt, hunters have the option to **substitute** a mature deer for their elk or may **add** deer for \$2500 to \$5500 depending on the ranch. Only mature deer will be allowed to be harvested. Hunters must hold a deer license.



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900 ARCHERY ANTELOPE HUNT – BIG TIMBER RANCHES

\$2500 per hunter 2x1

\$3000 per hunter 1x1

Hunt price includes lodging and meals at ABO Lodge in Big Timber.

Special Permit Required. Special Permit Area: 900-20

Hunt Dates – Big Timber Ranches

ARCHERY ELK & ELK COMBO

6-8 hunters, 7 days (arrival day, 5 days hunting, departure day).

Hunt includes lodging and meals at ABO Lodge in Big Timber

Hunt #1: Sept 5-11

Hunt #2: Sept 12-18

Hunt #3: Sept 19-25

Hunt #4: Sept 26-Oct 2

900 ARCHERY ANTELOPE

2-4 hunters, 4 days (arrival day, 3 days hunting, departing at the close of the last hunt day)

Hunt price includes lodging and meals at ABO Lodge in Big Timber.

Hunt Dates: TBD with the Outfitter at the time of booking - **Season Begins August 15**



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Archery on the Lazy E-L Ranch

The Lazy E-L is a 12,000 acre family owned ranch nestled at the foot of the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness just outside Roscoe, Montana. With 5 miles of river frontage, wildlife abounds in this spectacular, unspoiled setting. The ranch offers a high-quality hunt with opportunity for harvesting respectable size elk. Not only a good place to hunt, the beauty and history of the Lazy E-L Ranch is movie set worthy.

Your accommodations will be in a lovely vacation lodge on the West Rosebud River and just minutes from the ranch. This charming retreat offers comfortable beds and full bathrooms.

Clients staying at the retreat will enjoy eating in the dining room at The Grizzly Bar & Grill, located just outside the ranch. The Grizzly Bar & Grill, a favorite local spot and known for its good food, is owned and operated by Patrick and Jennifer O'Shea. Patrick guides and Jennifer cooks for all ABO's Lazy E-L Hunts. Hunters love Jenn's food!

Hunt Prices – Lazy E-L Ranch

ARCHERY ELK HUNT

\$9000 per hunter 2x1

This ranch is hunted with a general license.

Hunt Dates – Lazy E-L Ranch

ARCHERY ELK HUNT

4 Hunters per season – 7 days (arrival day, 5 days hunting, departure day)

Hunt cost includes lodging and meals

Hunt #1: Sept 30-Oct 6



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What's Included and Not Included For Private Land Hunting

What's Included

The rates include:

- Comfortable sleeping accommodations in lodge with bedding and towels.
- All meals during your hunt
- Field care of trophies
- Experienced Guides

What's Not Included

The rates do not include:

- Transportation to Montana
- Personal toiletries
- Montana hunting licenses and permits
- Hunting equipment including bow & arrows/guns & ammo
- Fishing Licenses
- Fishing equipment including rods and flies
- Transport of trophies to final destination
- Any additional transportation cost
- Gratuities for guides and cook

Gratuities

Clients often ask about gratuity amounts for **guides, cooks and staff**. Gratuities are 100% discretionary. Obviously, if you ask us, we are going to tell you to tip generously, as we know the long, hard hours our team works to give you the best possible ABO experience. Twenty percent of the cost of the hunt divided at the Client's discretion is a good place to start. Gratuity is always appreciated and provides validation to our team that the Client has had a good time and that they have done a good job.



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Deposit & Payment Policy

A partial deposit of \$1000 is required to book your hunt. If you do not draw a license, the \$1000 partial deposit will be rolled over to the following year, if we have space available, or refunded. The drawing takes place in mid-April. The remainder of the deposit (50% of the cost of the hunt) is due when the draw is posted and is non refundable. The balance of the hunt is due 30 days prior to your hunt and is non-refundable. Hunts not fully paid by this date will be considered canceled. We recommend Trip Cancellation Insurance. Montana Outfitters & Guides Association suggests Global Rescue travel insurance.

<http://www.montanaoutfitters.org/travelersinsurance/>

We accept Credit Cards and Checks

Make Checks Payable to: Absaroka-Beartooth Outfitters, Inc.

All non-resident hunters will have an additional fee of \$50 added to their hunt invoice for the Hunter/Angler Defense Fund. This fund was set up by Montana Outfitters & Guides Association for the purpose of defending non-resident hunting and fishing rights in the State of Montana. (Information on HADF can be found in the General Hunting Information Packet.)



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Travel Arrangements | Big Timber

Plan to arrive in Big Timber the afternoon before your hunt begins and plan to depart the morning after your hunt ends. You will be staying in the ABO Lodge at ABO Headquarters. Check in time is 4:00 pm. Check out time is at 10:00 am.

ABO Headquarters & Lodge [1263 Hwy 10 West](#) [Big Timber, MT 59011](#)

Driving to Big Timber

Big Timber is located off Interstate 90 between Bozeman and Billings. Bozeman to Big Timber is 60 miles, driving time 1 hour. Billings to Big Timber is 90 miles, driving time 1½ hours.

Flying into Bozeman or Billings

The service is usually very good flying into Bozeman and Billings. However, Bozeman is a college town, home to Montana State University, so make your reservations early. Remember, Montana is on Mountain Time so keep that in mind when making your travel arrangements.

Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN) and **Billings Logan International Airport (BIL)** are the two closest airports to Big Timber.

The following airlines service Bozeman and Billings:

Delta 1-800-325-1999 American 1-800-433-7300 Southwest 1-844-833-1185
United 1-800-864-8331 Alaska 1-800-252-7522

Most major rental car companies are available at either airport. We recommend you rent a car and that you book your rental car at the same time you book your flight.

Rental cars can be in short supply in the fall. If you are not renting a car, **Classic Limo 406-585-5466** offers a round trip shuttle service from the Bozeman Airport to Big Timber. This is a very busy time of year and all our "hands" are engaged in preparing a great hunt for you so we are not available to do airport runs.



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Travel Arrangements|Lazy E-L Ranch

Driving to Roscoe:

The Lazy E-L Ranch
Lazy EL Ranch Road
[Roscoe, MT, 59071](#)

Grizzly Bar and Grill
[1 Main Street,](#)
Roscoe, MT, 59071

Directions from Billings: Go west on Interstate 90 to Columbus; at Columbus go south on 78 to Roscoe. Driving time from Billings to the ranch is approximately 1.5 hours.

Directions from Bozeman: go east on Interstate 90 to Columbus; at Columbus go south on 78 to Roscoe. Driving time from Bozeman to the ranch is approximately 3.5 hours.

Plan to arrive by 3:00 pm the day before your hunt begins. You will meet your guides at the Grizzly Bar & Grill located just before you get to the ranch. This gives the guides time to get you settled and you time to sight in your rifles or bows before dark.

Please check in with Patrick to confirm your arrival time.

Patrick O'Shea – cell 406-425-4333

Cell service is not very good at the ranch so two good emergency numbers are:

(406) 328-6789 (the Grizzly Bar & Grill) or 425-269-2907 (Jamie Bowden)

Flying into Billings

The service is usually very good flying into Billings. However, there are limited flights into Montana, so make your reservations early. Remember, Billings is on Mountain Time so keep that in mind when making your travel arrangements.

Plan to fly into the **Billings Logan International Airport (BIL).**

The following airlines service Billings:

Delta 1-800-325-1999	American 1-800-433-7300	Southwest 844-833-1185
United 1-800-864-8331	Alaska 1-800-252-7522	

Most major car rental agencies are available at the Billings airport. **We recommend you rent a car and that you book your rental car at the same time you book your flight.**

Rental cars can be in short supply in the fall. We do not offer a shuttle service as it is a very busy time of year and all our "hands" are engaged in preparing a great hunt for you.



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Hotels, Food & Local Shops

If you plan to stay in Big Timber, Bozeman or Billings prior to your hunt we recommend the following:

BIG TIMBER, MONTANA

Hotels

The Grand Hotel (thegrand-hotel.com) (406-932-4459).

The Grand Hotel Bed and Breakfast is a charming and beautifully renovated historical hotel in downtown Big Timber. Each room is unique. A well-stocked vintage bar is popular with the locals and serves lunch and dinner.

Note: Due to labor shortages, please check the hotels website for updates on hours and food service.

The Super 8 Motel (super8.com) (406-932-8888).

The Super 8 Motel has comfortable rooms with small refrigerators and serves a light breakfast. For a heartier breakfast, the Bakery, The Grand Hotel, The Coffee Shop and EarthWise General Store serve breakfast.

Food & Shops

Browse along McLeod Street in Downtown Big Timber for fun and unique shops with great prices. Don't miss **Gusts Department Store**, **Crazy Peak Boutique** with their homemade soups, sandwiches, salad bar and gift variety, **Crazy Mountain Coffee Roasters** for a fabulous cup of coffee, and the **Bakery** for breakfast, lunch and yummy treats. Stop for a delicious sandwich and cookie at **EarthWise General Store** and browse their unique health and Made in Montana products. For coffee lovers, check out **The Tangent** and **The Coffee Shop**, both located on 1st Ave. **Sweet Cast Angler** is a good place to pick up any extra flies or fishing supplies. **The Fort** offers any last-minute needs from sleeping bags, hunting & fishing gear, gifts, food and "spirits" to name a few. Take in the real flavor of Montana at **The Timber Bar** with its delicious "made in house" food and top it all off with a broad assortment of both local and national refreshing craft beers. For pizza and salads, check out **Iron Star Pizza Co.** and don't miss Big Timber's own microbrewery, **Circle T Taproom** and the **Mexican Food Truck** next to the Taproom.



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BOZEMAN, MONTANA

The Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Bozeman West (holidayinnexpress.com)

(406-582-4995). The **Holiday Inn Express** is a small, friendly hotel conveniently located at 2305 Catron Street. The Inn has a breakfast bar that opens early each morning, comfortable rooms, pool and exercise facility. They provide shuttle service to the airport. Make your reservations early. The summer is a busy time for tourists while the fall is filled with college related activities.

The C'mon Inn (cmoninn.com) (406-587-3555). The **C'mon Inn's** heavy timbered look with Montana's big game animals perched on rocks and above waterfalls has the charm and feel of a mountain lodge. Comfortable rooms, an indoor pool, several hot tubs, a breakfast bar and shuttle service to the airport leave you wanting for little. The Outback Steakhouse is conveniently located next door. The C'mon Inn is located off Interstate 90 at Exit 305 on East Valley Center Road.

Bozeman is a delightful old western town with great restaurants, wonderful art galleries, the Museum of the Rockies and many other fun places to shop and visit. Be sure to check out **HEAD WEST**, headwestbozeman.com, a western apparel and gift shop on Main Street in downtown Bozeman. If you need libations for your stay, you will not want to miss a visit to **Single Barrel Liquor & Bar**. This unique boutique liquor store with an attached cozy cocktail bar is located on the West side of Bozeman and is a local favorite.

4535 Valley Commons Drive, Suite 101, Bozeman, MT 59718

singlebarrelbozeman.com 406-577-2163

BILLINGS, MONTANA

Boothill Inn & Suites (boothillin.com) (406-245-2000) 242 East Airport Road, Billings, MT 59105

Northern Hotel (northernhotel.com) (406-867-6767) 19 N Broadway, Billings, MT 59101

There are many good hotels in Billings from which to choose. These are two that have consistently received good reviews.



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Hunting Licenses and Permit Information

For more information on licensing, permits and how to apply for the draw refer to the General Hunting Information Packet or go online to fwp.mt.gov.

General Non-Resident Elk and Deer Licenses

Non-resident and resident hunters will need general licenses to hunt elk and deer in Montana. All of the ranches Absaroka Beartooth Outfitters hunt, require only a general elk/deer license.

Permit Requirement for Antelope Licenses

Resident and Non-resident hunters must draw a special permit to archery antelope hunt in Montana. We would suggest you apply for the Archery 900-20 antelope permit.

Hunter Education Requirement

Before you go online to apply, be aware of the following:

Hunter Education Requirement for Archery & Rifle Hunters - If you were born after January 1, 1985, you are required to show proof of completing a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license, whether the hunting license is for the rifle or archery season. **When you apply online for your license, you will need to have your certificate number, the date you received it and the state in which you received it as proof that you have completed a hunter safety course.**

Bowhunter Education Requirement

Before you go online to apply, be aware of the following:

To purchase a Montana Bow and Arrow license, **a hunter must provide a certificate of completion of the National Bowhunter Education Foundation Course, or provide any prior year's bowhunting/archery stamp, tag, permit, or license from any state or province. You will need the license number, date it was issued and state from which it was issued.**



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Bow and Arrow Licenses

Archers will need to purchase a bow & arrow license. You can purchase your bow & arrow license at the same time you apply for the general draw or you can wait until you draw to purchase it. See details below under Bowhunter Education Requirement. If you are already in the Montana system as an archery hunter, then you will not be required to provide this information.

Black Bear Requirement

Before you go online to apply, be aware of the following:

A hunter must take and pass a "Black Bear Identification test" before purchasing a Black Bear hunting license. The test and certificate are free and available online at: fwp.mt.gov/hunt/education/bear-identification. A hunter must present a certificate of completion issued by FWP at the time of purchase. A Black Bear License can be purchased over-the-counter.

Licensing Process Summary

Our ABO staff is ready to assist you with any questions you may have about hunting in Montana with our outfit. Our office will walk you through each aspect from booking, to licensing to arrival and everything in-between.

Special Note: As a service to our booked hunters, we assist them with their online license applications due to the complexity of the licensing process in Montana. This alleviates errors in license and permit choices and helps them to maximize their chances of drawing.